

**FIRE FACT NO. 051 CHECKLIST(s) : 06R**

**TITLE : RESIDENTIAL BOARD AND CARE**

**CHECKLIST ITEM(s) : 06R**

**REFERENCE(s) :**

**PAGE 1 of 3**

This Fire Fact provides clarification of the safety features needed for different types of residential settings, and for those adults who are not capable of taking self-preservation measures. For entities such as community developmental disabilities organizations, licensed community service providers, and other agencies and individuals who provide services or care to adults with developmental disabilities, this information should be helpful in understanding basic fire safety measures required for board and care facilities.

The requirements for board and care facilities depend heavily on a number of different factors. These factors include the number of people living in the home or residential setting, the level of support these people would need in the event of a fire, and whether the facility is considered a “new” or “existing” facility. Fire and life safety risk increases proportionally with the number of residents in a home or other residential setting. Existing facilities with 17 or more residents must have more fire and life safety features while new facilities, regardless of size, are expected to meet all current code requirements.

### **DEFINITIONS**

A **residential board and care facility** is a building or part of a building that is used for the lodging and boarding of four or more residents, not related by blood or marriage to the owners or operators, for the purpose of providing personal care services. See NFPA 101 (1991) 22-1.3, 23-1.3

The **evacuation capability** refers to the ability of the occupants, residents, and staff as a group either to evacuate the building or to relocate from the point of occupancy to a point of safety. See NFPA 101 (1991) 22-1.3

Evacuation capability is classified as follows:

- Prompt – Evacuation capability equivalent to that of the general population
- Slow – Evacuation capability of a group to move to a point of safety in a timely manner, with some of the residents requiring assistance from staff
- Impractical – Evacuation capability of a group that, even with staff assistance, cannot reliably move to a point of safety in a timely manner. For the purposes of this Fire Fact, “timely manner” means an appropriate or suitable evacuation time.

A facility is considered to be a **new facility** if one of the following is met:

- New building or portion of a new building used for residential board and care
- Additions made to, or newly used as, residential board and care occupancies
- Alterations, modernizations, or renovations of existing board and care occupancies
- Existing buildings or portions thereof upon change of occupancy to a residential board and care



## Kansas State Fire Marshal Prevention Division

---

**FIRE FACT NO. 063 CHECKLIST(s) : 06R**

**TITLE : RESIDENTIAL BOARD AND CARE**

**CHECKLIST ITEM(s) : 06R**

**REFERENCE(s) :**

**PAGE 2 of 3**

---

An **existing facility** is one that is an existing building or portion thereof that is currently occupied as a residential board and care occupancy.

A **large facility** cares for 17 or more people. A **small facility** cares for 4-16 people.

Residential board and care facilities include **home plus, assisted living**, and other types of facilities that may be licensed differently through other agencies. Residential board and care may include:

- A group housing arrangement for physically or mentally handicapped persons who normally may attend school in the community, attend worship in the community, or otherwise use community facilities.
- A group housing arrangement for physically or mentally handicapped persons who are undergoing training in preparation for independent living, for paid employment, or for other normal community activities.
- A group housing arrangement for the elderly that provides personal care services but does not provide nursing care
- Facilities for social rehabilitation, alcoholism, drug abuse, or mental health problems that contain a group housing arrangement and that provides personal care services but does not provide adult care
- Other group housing arrangements that provide personal care services but not nursing care

### ***EVACUATION TIMES***

The evacuation capability in all cases is based on the time of day or night when evacuation of the facility would be most difficult, whether because of sleeping residents or fewer staff present. The evacuation capability of the residents and staff is a function of both the ability of the residents to evacuate and the assistance provided by staff. When drills are used in determining evacuation capability, records should indicate how much time is taken to reach a point of safety, the date and time of day, the location of the simulated fire origin, the escape paths used, and comments relating to residents who resisted or failed to participate in drills.

It is intended that the timing of drills, the rating of residents, and similar actions related to determining evacuation capability be performed by persons approved by or acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction. Where the facility management does not furnish an evacuation capability determination acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction, the evacuation capability should be classified as impractical. Evacuation capability should be considered slow if all residents are able to travel to centralized dining facilities without continuous staff assistance and if there is continuous staffing whenever there are residents in the facility.



## Kansas State Fire Marshal Prevention Division

---

**FIRE FACT NO. 063 CHECKLIST(s) : 06R**

**TITLE : RESIDENTIAL BOARD AND CARE**

**CHECKLIST ITEM(s) : 06R**

**REFERENCE(s) :**

**PAGE 3 of 3**

---

### ***LIFE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS***

The life safety requirements for residential board and care facilities are different for new, existing, small, and large facilities. The Residential Board and Care Checklist (06R) is broken down into five sections: A, B, C, D, and E. The first section contains requirements common to all residential board and care occupancies, regardless of the size or newness of the facility. Existing small facilities must meet these requirements and also the requirements set forth in Section B. Existing large facilities must meet the requirements in Sections A and C, new small facilities A and D, and new large facilities A and E.

